



Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

General Survey Information

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is part of a biennial national effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The YRBS monitors health risks and behaviors in six categories, which are related to the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among both youth and adults. Data is collected from 9th through 12th graders on behaviors that contribute to physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, violence and injuries, and sexual behavior.

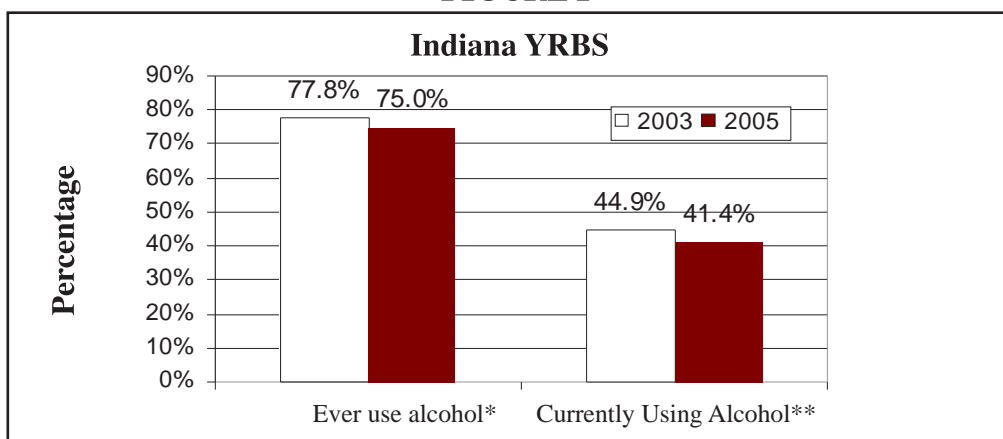
The Problem

Alcohol use among adolescents is a major factor in homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crash death, and injuries.¹ Heavy alcohol use among adolescents is associated with other risk behaviors including cigarette use, drug use, and sexual activity.² Long term alcohol drinking can also increase the risk of developing heart disease, certain forms of cancer, cirrhosis, and liver disorders.²

Alcohol Use

According to the 2005 Indiana YRBS, 75% of high school students reported ever using alcohol in their lifetime as compared to 77.8% in 2003. Furthermore, 41.4% of students reported currently using alcohol whereas in 2003 the current use was 44.9%. Although these findings were not statistically significant, there appears to be a decline in the use of alcohol by Indiana adolescents over a two-year period as shown in Figure I.

FIGURE I

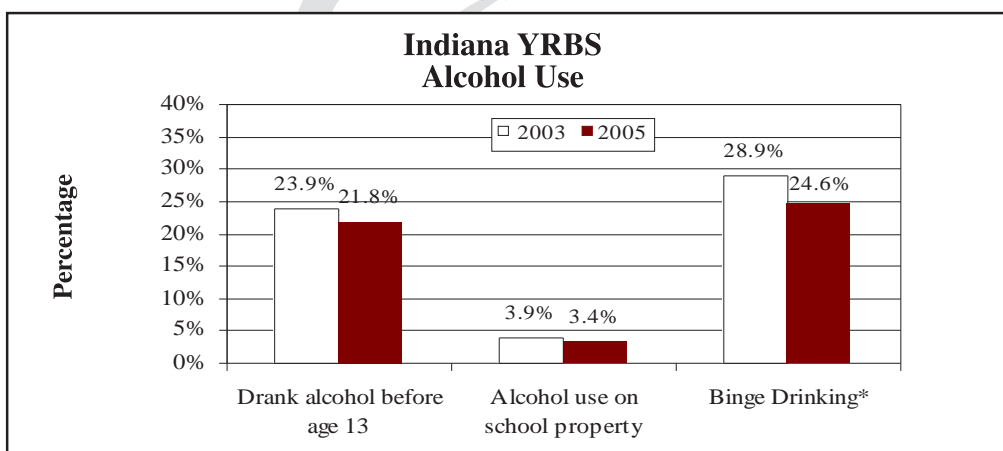


* Had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.

** Had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days.

Age at onset of drinking strongly predicts development of alcohol dependence over the course of the lifespan. About 40% of those who start drinking at age 14 years or under develop alcohol dependence at some point in their lives.³ According to the 2005 Indiana YRBS data, 21.8% of Indiana students in grades 9th through 12th drank alcohol before age 13. The prevalence of alcohol use before age 13, alcohol use on school property, and binge drinking have decreased since 2003, but the changes are not statistically significant (See Figure II).

FIGURE II



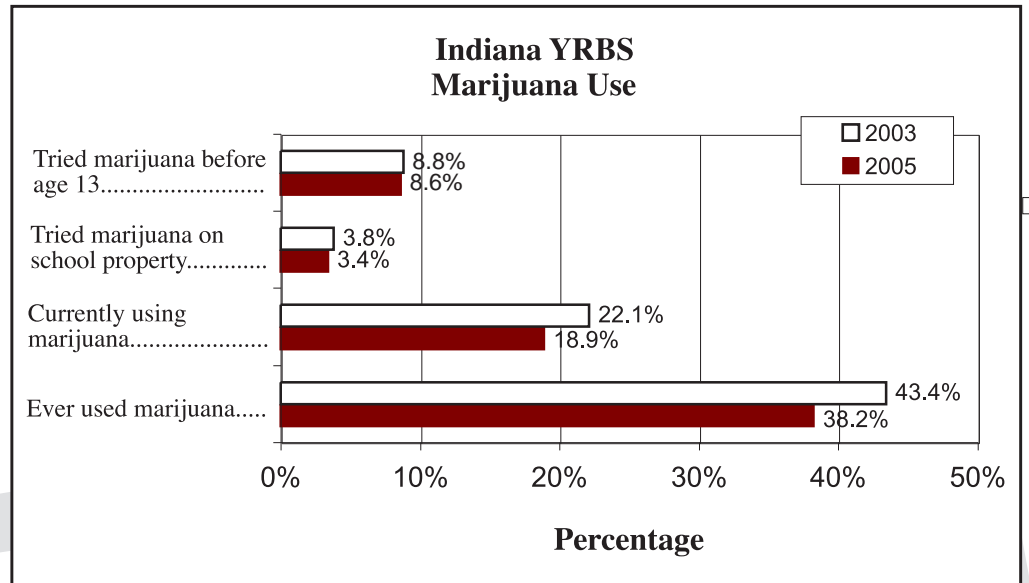
* Drank 5 or more drinks in a row in last 30 days.

Drug Use

Illegal use of drugs such as marijuana, psychedelics, inhalants, and cocaine is associated with injury, illness, disability, and death.³ Drug users are frequently involved with crime, domestic violence, and lost workplace productivity.⁴ Drug users also have a high risk of contracting gonorrhea, syphilis, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).⁴

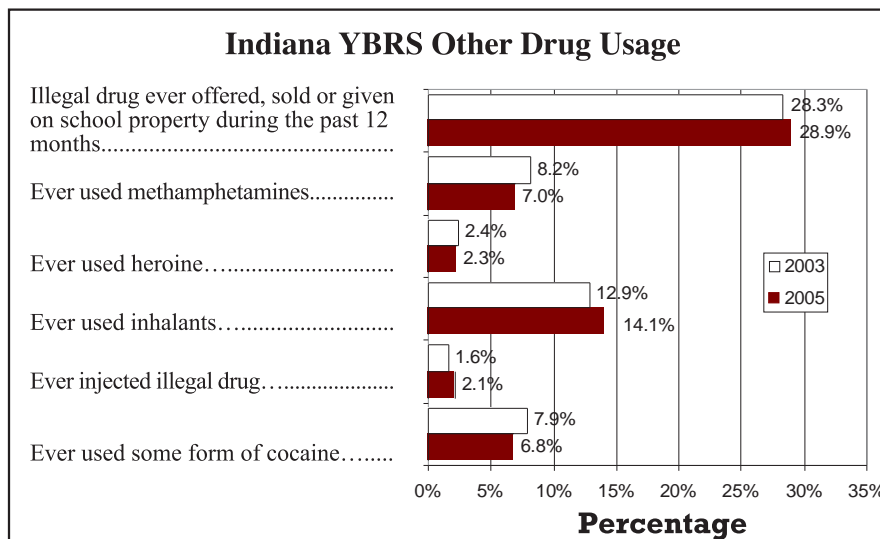
The 2005 Indiana YRBS shows that 8.6% of high school students tried marijuana before 13 years of age, 3.4% used marijuana on school property, 18.9% are currently using marijuana, and 38.2% reported ever having used marijuana in their lifetime. Between 2003 and 2005, Indiana adolescent males ever using marijuana decreased significantly from 48.8% to 41.3%. The 2005 data also showed that females reporting the use of marijuana on school property decreased significantly from 2.7% to 1.2%. Overall, Indiana adolescents using marijuana slightly decreased over the two-year period as shown in Figure III, although these findings are not statistically significant.

FIGURE III



According to the 2005 Indiana YRBS, 28.9% of students reported being offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the past 12 months, 7% ever used methamphetamines, 2.3% ever used heroine, 14.1% ever used inhalants, 2.1% ever injected illegal drugs, and 6.8% ever used some form of cocaine. Comparisons between the 2003 and 2005 survey show that high school students who were offered, sold, or given illegal drugs on school property increased slightly as well as students using inhalants and injecting illegal drugs, while the usage of methamphetamines, heroine, and cocaine slightly decreased. However, these changes are not statistically significant (See Figure IV).

FIGURE IV



Healthy People 2010 Goals:

- ❑ 26-10a. Increase the proportion of adolescents not using alcohol or any illicit drugs during the past 30 days to 89 percent.
- ❑ 26-10b. Reduce the proportion of adolescents reporting use of marijuana during the past 30 days to 0.7 percent.
- ❑ 26-11d. Reduce the proportion of adolescents aged 12 to 17 years engaging in binge drinking during past month to 2 percent.

References:

1. Tangirala, M.K., Perera. B. (2004). Alcohol. Indiana Prevention Resource Center.
2. Measures of Alcohol Consumption and Alcohol-Related Health Effects from Excessive consumption. Centers for Disease Control and prevention . Accessed from <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/factsheets/general_information.htm>
3. Healthy People 2010: Substance Abuse. Accessed from
4. The Consequences of Illegal Drug Use. Office of National Drug Control Policy. Accessed from <http://www.ncjrs.org/ondcppubs/publications/policy/ndcs00/cha p2_10.html>

For More Information:

Indiana State Department of Health: 1-800-433-0746

2005 Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS): www.in.gov/yrbs

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System: www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/yrbs